

Indiana Department of Environmental Management
Office of Air Quality
Indianapolis, IN

Subject: Exceptional Events Flagging for Fire Event

Parameter: PM_{2.5}

Sites: Jeffersonville and New Albany

Dates: November 12, 2005

Reason: Smoke from a fire at the Fort Knox Military Reservation that was caused by tracer rounds that ignited a brush pile, causing a brush fire which impacted the Jeffersonville and New Albany areas. The fire was allowed to burn because unexploded ordinance in the area prevented fire crews from moving in. See the included Louisville Courier Journal Article dated November 13, 2005 for details.

Data: Table 1 shows daily FRM averages prior to, during, and after the event. There was a definite rise in values on November 12. Even though the values at the Jeffersonville site were lower than the New Albany values, the smoke plume map from the NOAA Satellite and Information Service is shown to also be impacting it as well. New Albany was near the center of the plume, while Jeffersonville was near the edge. The Wind Rose for this date indicates the predominance of south southwest wind, directly from Fort Knox.

Maps: Images of maps from NOAA Satellite and Information Services show the smoke plume over the New Albany/Jeffersonville Metro Area on November 11-12, 2005.

Table 1
FRM PM_{2.5} 24-hour Averages

Date	New Albany 18-043-1004	New Albany (col) 18-043-1004	Jeffersonville 18-019-0006
11/9/05	10.5	no sample	11.7
11/12/05	33.2	34.4	21.4
11/15/07	7.0	no sample	8.1

Courier-Journal newspaper article/weblink

Fort Knox fire sends smoke into Louisville

Sunday, November 13, 2005

Fort Knox fire sends smoke into Louisville

No buildings at post threatened

By Michael A. Lindemberger

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The Courier-Journal

A brush fire has been burning on Fort Knox's main firing range since Thursday evening, but officials said yesterday that the flames posed no threat to buildings or people on the post.

A haze caused by the fire that became visible in parts of Louisville, Southern Indiana and Hardin County yesterday prompted a handful of calls to area fire departments, officials in Elizabethtown and Louisville said.

Sgt. Tim Marsh of the Radcliff Fire Department said range fires happen several times a year and pose no threat to the surrounding property or residents.

Fort Knox spokeswoman Connie Shaffery said the fire began Thursday when tracer rounds ignited dry brush on the range, located south of the Salt River and west of the Rolling Fork.

Shaffery said the fire would be allowed to burn itself out since firefighters cannot reach the area because of unexploded ordnance in the range's four-mile-long impact zone. Shaffery said a range officer continued to monitor the fire and that if it appeared likely to spread beyond the area, firefighters on the 109,000-acre post would contain it.

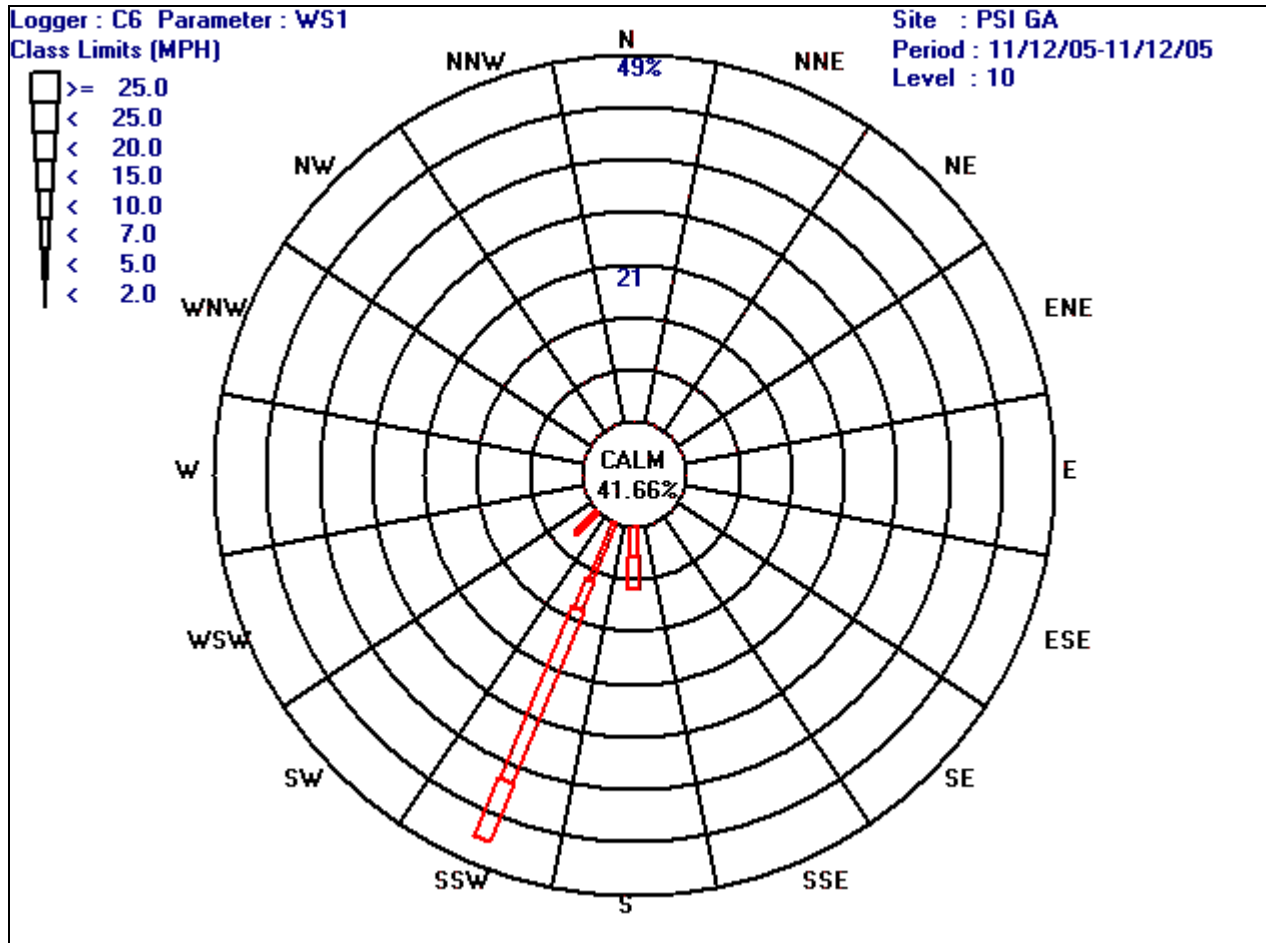
"It's supposed to rain this evening, and we expect that will put it out," she said.

Dispatcher Pat Riordan of Louisville Fire & Rescue said several residents had called to complain about the smoke.

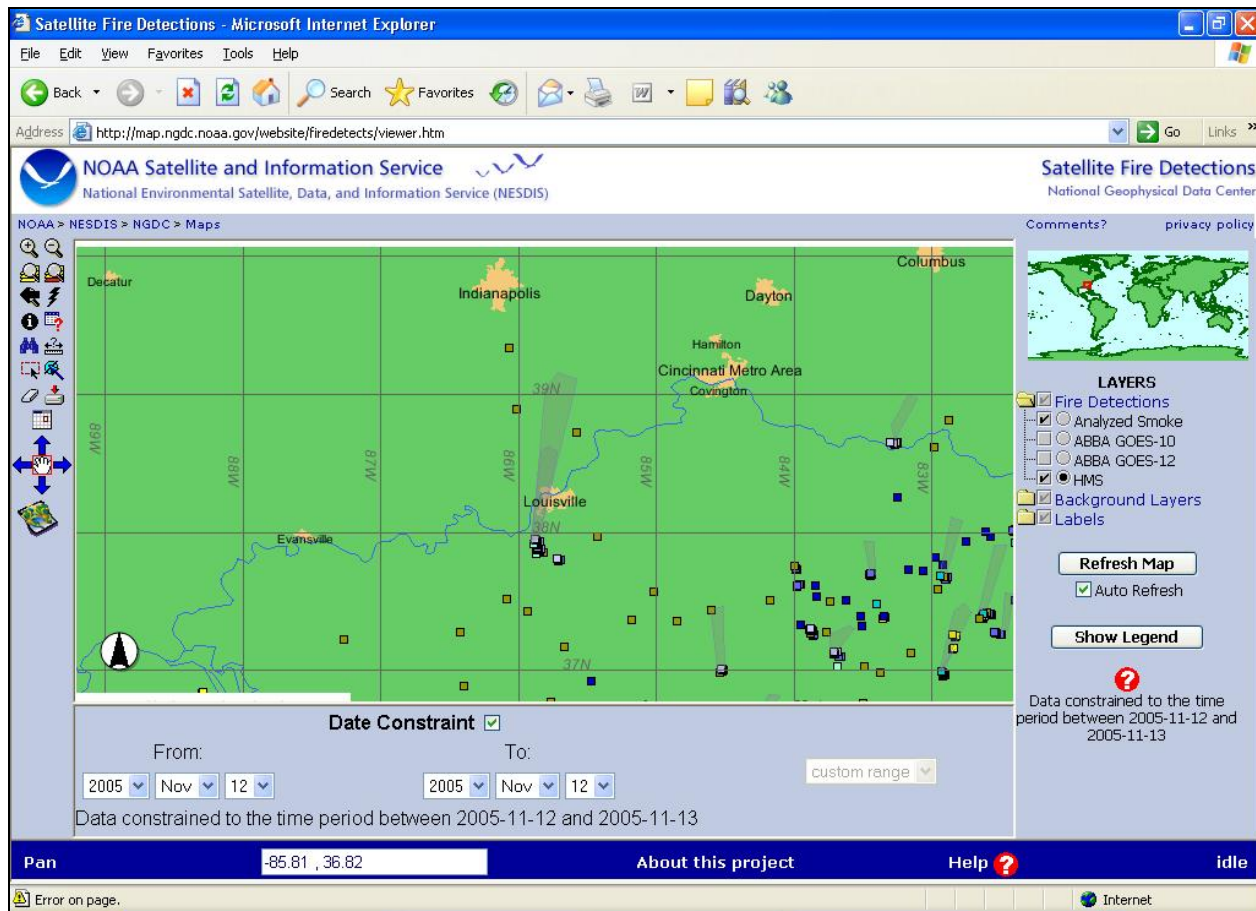
"It's not particularly worrisome," Riordan added. "But if you have respiratory problems, you'd likely find it to be irritating."

Riordan said winds blowing 9 to 15 mph out of the south carried smoke into the Louisville area.

Because of strong winds and low humidity, the National Weather Service issued a "red flag warning" for increased fire danger yesterday afternoon for Central and Western Kentucky and Southern Indiana. The warning expired at 7 last night.



Wind rose for November 12, 2005 clearly showing prevailing winds from the direction of the Fort Knox fire



Smoke map from November 12, 2005 showing the smoke plume coming from Fort Knox and impacting the New Albany/Jeffersonville areas

